



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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May 2, 2007

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3694, R-39.

I do so with regret given the outstanding record of service that marks the life of Dolly Cooper. As we all know, throughout our Nation's history we have honored public figures by associating their names with public projects. This practice is appropriate, in part, because it helps us teach our children about some of history's most distinguished citizens.

Here in South Carolina any who have taken the time to learn about the actions, service and leadership of M. J. "Dolly" Cooper to our State and our Nation know that he should indeed be considered as a distinguished citizen. He was a highly decorated combat veteran during World War II, a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and even the recipient of our State's highest award in recognition of service, the Order of the Palmetto.

Unfortunately for this instance, I have long taken the position that we should not name public projects for living public figures regardless of the stature and quality of their service. This position goes back to my time in Congress when I voted against the renaming of National Airport to Ronald Reagan National Airport, though I had the utmost respect for his contributions to this country. Similarly, I voted against a variety of bills that would have named federal post offices after living former members of Congress. Without drawing clear lines in the sand on this issue, there are oftentimes temptations to name public infrastructures after former or sitting members of the political body who do not have the credentials of Mr. Cooper. In these instances, the passage of time yields a clearer perspective on the citizens who are most deserving of honor.

On a personal level, I want to reiterate my respect of Mr. Cooper and his service. Unfortunately, though, this legislation would continue a practice with which I respectfully disagree.

For these reasons, I am vetoing H. 3694 and returning it without my approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "MS" or a stylized "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford